

dialog

Y2K.15 March 17, 2000

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Drew Sauveur is new SA President



Drew Sauveur, President of the SA



Daniel Bell, VP Casa Loma



Janet Hackett, VP Nightingale



Udana Muldoon, VP St. James



Jodi Shannahan, VP Education

The details

by Allan Stokell

Drew Sauveur, former Vice President of Casa Loma, was the big winner of the Student Association elections. Sauveur won the right to be called President for the next school year. His term will begin on May 15, 2000.

Other winners were Daniel Bell, new Vice President of Casa Loma, Janet Hackett took Nightingale as Vice President and Udana Muldoon came in tops at St. James Campus. Jodi Shannahan was approved as Vice President Education.

Sauveur ran his campaign on his record. He stated that he has already established working relationships with the College. In the past year he has sat on the educational issues, events and African Heritage Month committees. In his term he vows to increase diverse representation and visibility and improve College/student relations.

Daniel Bell has publicly stated that one of his primary goals is to make all areas of George Brown College accessible to students with challenges. Janet Hackett wants to meet the needs of students by improving school resources.

Udana Muldoon wants to

achieve her goals within a diverse team environment.

Jodi Shannahan plans to advocate for all students in her term.

Margaret Cameron, Acting President of the Student Association, congratulated the winners. "You ran excellent campaigns and I know you will do a great job in your new positions," she said.

Chief Returning Officer Jessica Chabot announced the unofficial results on Thursday evening.

For President, Milton Grace 197, Kevin King 177, Mark Repic 101 and Drew Sauveur. 211. For Vice President Education 578 voted yes for Jodi Shannahan, while 90 voted no.

In the race for Vice-President Casa Loma Daniel Bell received 102 votes, while Bryce Lortie got 99.

For Vice President of Nightingale, Melissa Fields got 40 votes while Janet Hackett got 51.

In the race for Vice President St. James, Udana Muldoon got 178 and Don Shapiro got 174.

Note: These elections results are unofficial until passed by the Student Association Board of Directors.

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SISTER FEST - A CELEBRATION OF WOMEN
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In Memoriam

Bonnie Fung 1978–2000

A world less bright

by Edwin Huang

On March 9 2000, I was shocked and dismayed to learn of the passing of my friend and colleague, Bonnie Fung.

Bonnie was a student in the Community Worker Program at St. James campus and also a member of the Dialog Collective. Her regular contributions to the Beggar's Banquet project in addition to her insightful ideas and perspective will be greatly missed.

Wise beyond her 21 years, Bonnie truly showed her passion towards the social injustices plaguing our world today. I, along with the members of the Dialog Collective, and staff and students of George Brown College send deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathies to the Fung family.

These days I feel so lucky. I look around and heroes surround me. Sometimes I feel guilty for all the strength they give me. Bonnie Fung was one of these heroes.

Some words I would use to describe her would be insightful, kind, courageous, playful, and inspiring.

Bonnie, I hope you know that you have touched the lives of so many of us in the Community Worker Program and beyond. To those of you who were fortunate enough to have known Bonnie, you know what I mean. To those who did not know Bonnie, I will share some memories with this special person affectionately know to some as "Bon Bon".

Bonnie suffered from the chronic autoimmune disease lupus. This disease causes the immune system, for unknown reasons to become hyperactive and attack normal tissue. This attack results in inflammation and brings about symptoms. Bonnie rarely would let on about the true pain she felt on a fairly regular basis. On the contrary she was rarely without a smile. Some days I could see in her eyes the toll her illness had on her body and the pain in her joints. I wonder how many times she endured headaches over the long duration of a school day and how she kept up her attention level. Going to Sick Kids Hospital for dialysis treatment was almost a daily part of Bonnie's life.

Recently Bonnie suffered her second seizure in a three-day span while working at the Dialog Collective office. This was to be the last time I was to see Bonnie, holding her hand waiting for the paramedics to arrive.

I used to look forward to Thursdays and Fridays—my placement days at the newspaper, not to say I don't anymore, it's just that there is a void that cannot be filled. Bonnie and I shared similar viewpoints towards many of the social issues



in the world today. Often, we would spend our days researching possible story ideas combined with our personal rants and raves on life. She gave me a fresh perspective on the issue of hospital cutbacks and a personal account of how it affected her and other patients. Bonnie was passionate about this issue in particular, as it has affected her so closely. I found it bitterly ironic that Bonnie had just completed a story on the critical care bypass issue and found herself an active participant of critical care bypass the same day.

Bonnie, although I only met you in September 1999, I am grateful and fortunate for that time I had with you. All of this is so unexpected, sad, and shocking. This has been the hardest piece I've ever had to write. I want to thank you for sharing of anime knowledge, the lessons in your special brand of micro-origami (I'll practice!), and the cool snacks you'd share with me. In many ways you were at times the little sister I wanted but never had.

What I will miss most is your habit of snatching my baseball cap and having to chase after you through the halls of George Brown College. You know I HATE hat-head. You always got a kick out of embarrassing me...Bonnie I am still on Bon Bon alert. I am waiting for you sneak up behind me a make off with my cap down the hall. I'd give anything for you to do that to me one more time.

I dedicate my column for the duration of the year to the memory of Bonnie Fung. Bonnie may you rest in peace in a place absent of the pain you endured in this world. You've touched us all. Thank you for the strength you have given us.

by Kari Macknight

I was probably the last person at *dialog* to get to know Bonnie but in the short time we were working together I came to respect her a great deal, not only as a humanitarian but as a hard working member of our group. The community has lost a truly devoted individual.

She was full of life and could never get enough of hearing about what everyone was up to. She asked me almost daily how things were and showed a lot of concern for me during the times I was under pressure, offering any assistance that she could and many times making sure I didn't forget to eat.

Bonnie loved to tease me and was one of the few people who knew just what to say to embarrass me, especially when it came to my love life.

She knew our opinions differed on certain political issues but she always wanted to hear my views and ideas for how the world should be. I never tired of hearing Bonnie's ideas for the Beggar's Banquet project.

I will miss about Bonnie her absolute selflessness. Generous to everyone to a fault, Bonnie made time for everyone in her day and was loved by everyone whose life she touched. I often wondered how she kept up with everything that was happening in the world.

Thank you, Bonnie, for sharing what little time was given you on this earth with all of us here at the paper. Your presence here is already missed, but that wherever you are now you're making it a better place.

I'll always remember

by John Tomcik

Bonnie was a great student in the Community Worker Program at George Brown College. She always did her work and had a great sense of humour. Bonnie also worked with Ed Huang and myself on a project called "The Beggar's Banquet" for the Dialog Collective newspaper. This was the placement that the three of us chose to acquire as part of the second semester of the program.

She consistently contributed to the newspaper and she was a fun person to work with. I enjoyed working with her and listening to all her ideas. We came into the world of the Dialog together and were given the project simultaneously. We all had a very friendly relationship and functioned well as a group.

It is most unfortunate that we have lost such a caring person in this way. Bonnie always had some kind words for everybody and respected everybody she spoke to. She will be missed a great deal by all of us, however her memories will be cherished.

by Allan Stokell

I first met Bonnie Fung when I became her Field Placement Supervisor at the beginning of the semester. As one of the students responsible for the Beggar's Banquet program, Bonnie was a tireless and thoughtful worker.

On Wednesday of this week I had the pleasure of being with a group of Bonnie's classmates as they gathered to talk about her life. It was very obvious that she was greatly loved by them. They told stories of her great sense of humour and her capacity for sharing. There was tears as well as laughter in the room as we shared these stories. Beggar's Banquet is all about sharing, and how important it is that we as a society be willing to share all the

benefits with the marginalized in our society. At our brain-storming sessions Bonnie would always have much to contribute. It was a great shock to us all when we learned of Bonnie's passing last Thursday and many members of the Collective have been in contact with me to express their sorrow.

One common theme has been that we never had a chance to say goodbye. Sadly, when people die unexpectedly we rarely do. Bonnie was one of those people who treated everyone with a great deal of respect.

All though we understood she was in a great deal of pain, I never recall her complaining. Bonnie will always be remembered for her selfless commitment to work on behalf of others.

diatribe

Now mind your p's and q's

by Karl Macknight

Let me preface this editorial by letting all of you know that I am not the biggest fan of children. I understand that I was once a child but I don't really remember anything before I was four. I was a most precocious and nerdy youngster, I am told, and was mature much before my time. It has become an asset in adulthood, though.

My dislike for the younger members of society is most certainly not universal and I have noticed that it extends mainly to the children of people I find particularly annoying. I wonder if there's a connection.

I can't claim to have had the most perfect upbringing in the most idyllic setting. My parents are, after all, divorced (like a number of other people's parents). My parents, however, never inflicted my sister or myself on anyone. We were taught how to behave in restaurants, we were instructed in the art of eating with utensils and we certainly learned how to say "please" and "thank you".

I think that what I find loathsome about the children I dislike is that they know none of these things. I suppose I can't really blame them — they don't know

what they don't know, after all. It doesn't keep me from being annoyed, however.

I always see children freaking out in my place of employment when they can't have something. I'm talking drawn out temper tantrums too, not just a whimper or a sniffle. The parents don't seem to think it's a big deal, either.

One lady the other day just left her kid screaming on the floor until we suggested her son's high-pitched wailing was disturbing the other customers, a few of whom actually got up and left. She hadn't even considered how her child's inappropriate behaviour might have impaired someone else's enjoyment, believe it or not.

During a visit to a rather upscale restaurant recently, a friend and I were mortified that a

couple was permitting their young daughter to run around the place. It wasn't until she upset the tray of a passing waiter that her folks reined her in. The moth-

er sent until our bill came.

I suppose in these particular cases, the parents were obviously not the best examples of how to interact with others. Did I not get the memo that manners no longer matter?

I had a conversation on this subject with my mother not too long ago. Her feeling was, after working with sick children and their parents for the last thirty-some odd years, that indeed nothing had changed. She said she knew after dealing with the parents what kind of a kid she was in for (this from a woman who adores children but is now happily retired!).

She added that it was her feeling that not enough parents teach their kids how to behave because they never expose them to the situations where outside-the-house behaviour might be expected —

like a restaurant.

This lack of etiquette has nothing to do with class or income, as some may be inclined to argue. Children from lower-income families are every bit as well behaved as their more fortunate counterparts, perhaps even better behaved.

Where am I going with this, you might ask?

Well, as I watch my nephew grow up I wonder what kind of an adult he'll be. He is only 16 months old but already his personality is emerging. He is bashful, strong, playful, curious and happy. He'll grow up with manners because he'll never be allowed to be rude and he'll never have to scream to get attention because he'll know enough to just ask for it. We spend a lot of time with him and he knows we love him.

In my opinion it is the selfish attitudes of adults that is at fault. Should I recant, then, on my statement at the beginning of this diatribe? I don't think so.

I still think kids are kind of annoying. I probably wouldn't make a very good parent, I suppose, but I don't really want children anyway. I get enough from watching my sister sweat through raising her own.



er yelled at the crying child and the father gave the waiter shift for not watching where he was going. I couldn't believe the behaviour, of the parents or the child. I thought I was on a movie

The View From Here — A Lenten Primer

by Allan Stokell

It's Ash Wednesday as I write this, and as I walk around the college friends and strangers alike call me aside and ask "Did you know you have a smudge on your forehead?"

"Ash Wednesday" I say. Some get it, some don't.

For Christians, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts until Holy Saturday (the day before Easter). It lasts forty days, if you don't count the Sundays. The number forty figures prominently in both Judaism, and its popular sect: Christianity. Noah's flood lasted forty days. The Jews wandered in the desert for forty years. Jesus fasted in the wilderness for forty days.

The word Lent comes from the Middle English word *lente* meaning springtime. It was originally a period of reflection and fasting for those wishing baptism on the Saturday before Easter.

Good Friday is the holiest day in the Christian calendar. Tradition has it that Christ was crucified (executed) on that day. Three days later on Easter Sunday he was seen alive by some of his followers. Christians believe Christ died for our sins and he was resurrected from the dead.

The tradition of ashes comes from repentance. At the time of Jesus, Jews who desired to repent from past sins would wear "sackcloth and ashes". Sackcloth was a material that was incredibly uncomfortable and itchy to wear. The cold ashes from a fire poured over ones head by a priest added to the discomfort.

It became popular in the sixth century to show repentance by having a priest make the sign of the cross on your forehead with the ashes of the palm tree. The palm was used because of Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter when Jesus rode triumphantly into Jerusalem and was greeted by crowds waving palm fronds. Ashes also remind us of our mortality and how we will return to ashes upon our death.

Our family has its own Lenten traditions. My wife is a devotee of the Roman Church. I am Anglican. Our son, who attends a Catholic school and my church, follows traditions.

Eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras) is mostly a North American tradition, but a full breakfast on a busy weekday morning is good!

Some family members make a tradition of giving something up, such as chocolate or alcohol for Lent. I usually like to make this a time of reflection and renewal. We are coming out of the darkness of winter into the renewal of spring. I like to focus on one or two things that I can improve on and take the period of Lent to meditate on how I can be better, more passionate, more ready to accept others.

For Anglicans, Lent in the church is a time of solemnity rather than joy. We

don't celebrate baptisms or weddings and gone are the familiar "Alleluias" as well as flowers at the altar.

The last week of Lent is called Passiontide when we focus on the journey of Jesus to the Cross. Our parish tradition is to have a Passover Seder on Maundy Thursday before Easter. On Friday we have our Good Friday service and then an ecumenical walk with other Christians through the Parish. We each take turns carrying the cross. This symbolizes the Stations of the Cross, the walk Jesus was forced to make carrying his own device of execution. It's quite the sight to see a group of people carrying a cross on Queen Street. Good Friday shoppers stop to ask: "What's this all about?"

Traditionally we have a Pascal Feast on Easter Sunday. We get to eat all the foods we denied ourselves during Lent. Like most other Christian celebrations, this is an important family time when youngsters get to search for hidden chocolate eggs and make coloured eggs from blown chicken eggs.

I hope that you and your family get to participate in one of these traditions, part of many that make the tapestry of our multi-cultural society so strong.



Torrid Love

Dear Torri,

I've got this problem and I don't know what to do about it. I'm dating this woman and I find her really attractive except for this one thing and I don't know if I can get past it. She likes to squeeze the occasional zit I get on my back and eat it. It's so gross. She doesn't know that I know she eats it but I saw her reflection in her closet mirror.

Am I being petty or is this as skanky as I think? She's really cool but this makes me think that there is way more to her than I know. I mean who eats shit like that and from someone else's back? Yuck.

NEEDING A NEW COMPLEXION

Dear Needing,

Yuck is right! Ugh! I get the willies just reading about your problem. That woman needs help or a dietary consultant. Have you asked her to stop picking the zits on your back? Do you find the picking gross or only the bit about her scarfing your puss? If it's the picking, you must remember that you have total control over whether or not she picks your zits (and if you'd like some help on the zit front, try washing your back with Clearasil Daily Face Wash—it's wonderful). You can roll over, you can scream in pain, you can massage the scab to leave a trail of blood on her sheets or you can ask her to stop. If she doesn't stop when you ask her she's a freak and completely disrespectful. Ditch her. There are definitely some control issues there.

If it's only the eating puss that makes you puke then, again, you need to ask her to stop. It will be hard but you have to tell her that you saw what she did and that it concerns you. I don't mean that you should confront her and make her feel like shit but rather that you should explain that it grosses you out and ask if there is something she'd like to talk about. There's a good chance that the puss nibbling is an old habit and the result of past issues.

I feel for you. This is a tough (and again I feel compelled to say so) dilemma. You've got to clear the air or you will not be able to stomach this relationship. Good luck and write to let me know how it goes.

Torri

Dear Torri,

I am an avid fan of your column and I love your responses. I have a concern and I hope you can help me. I am a woman with an extremely embarrassing problem. I have a problem controlling my body during sex. Now, normally this wouldn't be a problem, however, the control problem is in relation to flatulence.

Whenever I reach an orgasm I lose control and ...well, a loud noise constantly erupts from within me. My boyfriend thinks it's funny because he sees it as a confirmation of a well-done job. But not only is it loud, but the odor that accompanies it is dreadful. It totally ruins the intimacy in my opinion. But I can't help it. I can tell by the look on my boyfriend's face that he too finds it to be unpleasant.

The only time this happens is during sex. Can sex cause this stench and loss of control? And if so, are there any practices I can do to stop it?

Thank you,
NOISY GIRL

Dear Noisy Girl,

Poor, poor Noisy Girl. I am so sad for you. I think I would be hard pressed to find anyone who will chastise me saying so and not telling you to embrace your "scent".

I love that we can often count on men to find the positive aspect of a fart. A good ripper elicits reactions ranging from giggling, swelling with pride and feeling sexually virulent. God bless 'em. Knowing that your boyfriend feels that he has truly made your world shake when you fart, must make things easier (although not much). This does not, however, help you stop stinkies.

The power to stop is in your hands. You could try taking a good dump before you schpach. If necessary, you could take something to help you along the way. You should be careful, however, because using a laxative can be really bad for your bowels and mess with the natural chemical thing going on in those miles of intestine.

Larry on the Short Bowel Discussion Group suggests modifying your diet to reduce tooting. He suggests staying away from foods with sugar and yeast (this makes bread and beer especially bad as they often have both) and from milk and cheese. Larry says that lean meats and boiled/steamed veggies are good. I don't know about you, Noisy Girl, but I'd rather tout in my partner's face than give up my good food so let's keep moving with the advice.

There are also some over the counter anti-gas medicines are supposed to help with the flatulence thing. The pharmacist at my local Shoppers Drug Mart suggested either Maalox or Ova for gas.

You could try some sphincter strengthening exercises. This is as simple as flexing your butt and making sure you're feeling it inside. This could also work on your ass at the same time. The only benefit of this, however, would be in helping you hold on a little while longer—and who are we kidding, who can concentrate on keeping her ass clenched while she's about blow? The fart will, inevitably, rear its ugly head.

You might want to try keeping some air fresher for after. The guys on the Farting Homepage have a list of recommended items in order of preference. They really seem to know their stuff so check it out.

Finally, I would suggest you try to laugh it off. EVERYONE farts. There are no exceptions (okay, seagulls don't fart but they do shit on people indiscriminately so I still think we're ahead in the game). Your mom farts. The Queen of England farts. Julia Roberts farts. The Pilsbury Dough Girl farts. Your boyfriend farts. It can be funny if you make it so. Good luck.

P.S. You are not alone. This happens to women and men all the time. You're not weird. Don't worry.



torridlove@hotmail.com

Earth Day is coming – Get off your butt!

Earth Day Canada is looking for enthusiastic, outgoing, reliable volunteers to be a part of the largest grassroots environmental event in the world. We are a non-profit, non-confrontational environmental communications organization. We have several year-round programs and resources

for schools, community groups, and businesses.

Earth Day 2000 is April 22 and we are setting up info/display booths around Metro Toronto throughout Earth Week April 15-30. Use your concern about the environment to help raise awareness about Earth Day and Earth Day Canada, inspiring others while promoting the incredible events throughout the city. We are also looking for volunteers to help us in our office during the weeks leading up to Earth Day.

We will be holding a volunteer information session on Thursday, March 23rd at 5:00 pm at Metro Hall. Registration is required. Please call Rosanna at 416/599-1991 x. 108 for more details.

Students praise Ottawa's proposed same-sex bill

by Cynthia Lee

Source: The Ubysey (UBC)
VANCOUVER (CUP) – Students are applauding Bill C-23, the omnibus bill that gives gay and lesbian couples the same rights as common-law couples under federal law.

Rebecca Shields, a graduate student at the University of British Columbia (UBC), says the proposed bill gives more stability to her future life with her female partner.

"It's all that kind of stuff that I think heterosexual couples have taken for granted," said Shields. "It's that business aspect [of relationships] that's coming together, and having those rights secure means that our relationships are more secure."

If approved, the bill, which was introduced last month in the House of Commons, would offer same-sex couples such benefits as tax breaks and pension benefits for widowed partners.

Student Caroline Kirsbaum says she isn't surprised by the legislation. She says the gay community in Canada is more tightly-knit than it is in her home country Norway.

"I wanted to be a part of a gay community that I couldn't be a part of at home," said Kirsbaum of her reasons for coming to Vancouver.

Like Shields, Kirsbaum says Bill C-23 will positively impact her future.

Under the proposed bill, she can be sponsored for immigration into Canada by a female partner. Previous legislation did not allow for this.

Bob Gallagher, a spokesperson for Ottawa-based Foundation for Equal Families, said Canada has generally been ahead of most countries in gay and lesbian issues.

He added, however, that Bill C-23, "clearly throw us at the forefront." "Virtually no other country has as thorough a legislation as this," he said.

Nevertheless, Gallagher said gay and lesbian rights supporters are critical of some aspects of the bill, including that it does not recognize same-sex marriages.

He added that gays and lesbians require provincial legislation in areas of custody

and adoption in order to attain complete legal equality with heterosexuals.

"As much as [Bill C-23] amends every piece of federal legislation that refers to the opposite sex exclusively, it doesn't touch a whole series of issues that are at the provincial level," he said.

Federal Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and the Status of Women, Hedy Fry, strongly supports the bill for its expansion of women's rights.

"We know that the diversity of women in fact creates double and triple barriers [to equality]," she said. "We know that lesbians face double barriers because it's discrimination against them not only as women, but as lesbians."

Fry says her experience as a physician before she was elected to Parliament gives her good reason to support the legislation.

"I, as a physician, saw the effect of discrimination based on sexual orientation," she said. "Not only for the economic lives of my patients, but in their social lives, in their sense of self-esteem and their ability to find employment."

But not all members of the federal government are happy with the bill.

Along with many Reform Party MPs, Rose-Marie Ur is one of a handful of Liberal backbenchers who does not support her party's bill.

In a recent letter to the Ubysey, the student newspaper at UBC, she wrote that, "a bill should not be solely based on whether a relationship is conjugal or not."

"If we are extending benefits, why not be fully inclusive?" she wrote, citing economically dependent relationships including brothers who farm together or a daughter who lives at home for an extended period of time as examples.

In response, Fry said the Liberal government will look at extending benefits to these relationships in the future, but she noted the difference between the two issues.

"Same-sex benefits recognizes that in the past ...we've discriminated against one group of conjugal relationships purely because they were homosexual," she said. "We are now righting that wrong."

ALCOHOL AND HOMELESSNESS DON'T MIX

by John Tomeik

Many times, as we walk on the streets of our communities, we see people who are homeless and poor asking for some change. A lot of people donate to try to help out of the goodness of their heart.

However, we need to go slightly beyond the demand for change, in order to realize what we really don't pay much attention to. Alcohol. Once the homeless and poor finish collecting their money, the majority of them go to the nearest wine or liquor store and purchase a bottle of wine. This alcohol may give them a feeling of relaxation, but on the other hand, it's also hurting them at the same time. Their personality changes in an instant, and sometimes, they become angry and argumentative. We, as people who care, can help them with this situation.

The best way to do this, is the direct offer of one of the things the homeless and poor need, which is food. Therefore, instead of giving them change, we can attempt to give them a snack, such as a chocolate bar or, perhaps a healthy drink, like fruit punch or orange juice. By giving them either a snack or a healthy drink, we eliminate or help to eliminate the necessity for alcohol. This way, the homeless build up on the essentials they need to stay alive. Also, this may take their minds off of alcohol completely, which could end up possibly killing them if they consume too much of it. The snacks and drinks will make them healthier and help them survive.

It is true that the people below the poverty line do need some money to purchase the rest of their required essentials. In this regard, donations help a lot.

In my opinion, after one month of snacks and drinks, the poor and homeless may actually realize what they should really do with the change people donate to them and we hope that, at that point, alcohol will no longer be an issue, meaning the homeless are going to buy the food and beverages they really need to survive and continue living.

Normal beverages can always substitute for alcohol, and, along with the snacks the homeless can feed upon, this is a great way to help the homeless start upgrading their status.

by Arlene Clement

Source: The Varsity (U of T)

TORONTO (CUP) — An overwhelming majority of people in Ontario support a tuition freeze for college and university students, says a recent Angus-Reid poll.

Four out of five people in the province, or 82 per cent, want to see an end to rising tuition, while 62 per cent believe that public funding for post-secondary education should increase, according to the poll.

"We're delighted to see that there's broad public opposition to the shift of funding away from public education," said Jim Turk, executive director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT).

Tuition in Ontario has risen 126 per cent over the past decade.

At the University of Toronto, this translates into a tuition cost of between \$3,835 and \$4,350 for an undergraduate student completing the full eight-month term this year.

"The poll tells us basically what we've been hearing for a long time now," said provincial Liberal MPP and college and

universities critic Marie Bountrogianni.

"We know tuition is too high. Students are having difficulties paying their fees. Families are feeling the pinch. Students are going to food banks and sleeping on couches because they can't afford housing. The issues are huge."

In the recent federal budget, Finance Minister Paul Martin announced \$2.5-billion more in provincial transfer payments for health care and post-secondary education.

But there's no guarantee the money will go to either health care or education because it's the provinces that decide how to spend the money.

And the new funding was a far cry from demands by some education groups, who wanted an increase of \$4-billion for education alone over two years.

Michael Conlon, national chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), said the federal budget did not properly fund post-secondary education.

"Paul Martin and the Liberal government have rejected the opportunity to repair the damage done to post-secondary

education, and in doing so ignored the priorities of Canadians," Conlon said.

Bountrogianni is also unhappy with the budget.

"More money should have been earmarked for post-secondary education," she said. "I don't trust that the Ontario government will do the right thing for post-secondary education."

The Ontario government, meanwhile, has given no indication it will ensure tuition levels remain the same.

"Tuition fees are an important part of the way a healthy post-secondary education system is funded," said Kerry Kincaid-Delaney, a spokesperson for the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities. "We will be making an announcement on operating grants and tuition fees later this month."

The poll, co-sponsored by Angus-Reid, The Globe and Mail and Global television, was conducted between February 8 and 15. It was based on a randomly selected sample of 1,000 adults across Ontario and has a margin of error of +/- 3.1 per cent.

Majority in Ontario support tuition freeze

Rye ices plan to move biz school to Maple Leaf Gardens

by Caroline Alphonso

Source: The Ryersonian (Ryerson U.)

TORONTO (CUP) — Lee Maguire, the associate dean of business management at Ryerson Polytechnic University, wants to put the school's interest in Maple Leaf Gardens on ice.

The fact that young children were sexually abused for years in the hockey shrine makes it unsuitable for use by Ryerson, argues Maguire.

Gordon Cressy, Ryerson's vice-president (university advancement), sent a letter expressing interest in the Gardens after it went up for sale last September. Cressy said the university would consider moving the business school to the Gardens.

But Maguire has his sights set on new buildings elsewhere.

"I have one basic problem with the Gardens," he said. "It's got a reputation. I really, honestly don't believe that families

deep down in their hearts want a school where children were once abused."

The arena's reputation was severely tarnished in early 1997 when it was revealed that nearly 90 children, most of them boys, had been sexually abused by Gardens employees between the 1960s and the 1980s. One victim, Martin Krueze, committed suicide after going public with his tale of abuse.

"We wouldn't have much choice if Ryerson told us to move to the Gardens," Maguire said in an interview. "But my personal feelings is that [the Gardens] is not appropriate for a school."

Ryerson's interest in the Gardens comes as the university searches for more space for classrooms and students residences.

There will be an influx of students in the next three years, especially in 2003 when two classes of high-school students graduate together because of the elimination of

grade 13.

The business program alone is expecting an increase to 4,000 students from its present 3,000, Maguire said.

But he says he prefers two new buildings in downtown that are connected by a walkway on the fourth floor.

That plan would cost about \$120-million, with money coming from the sale of a business building and from the provincial government, Maguire said.

The business building up for sale was originally an O'Keefe Breweries warehouse. It was converted into the business school in 1968. At the time, Ryerson wanted to use it for only three years.

Linda Grayson, vice-president administration and student affairs, said that with the Yonge and Dundas redevelopment, the business building will be eyed by developers. "Its value is going to increase almost on a daily basis," she said.

IFAC is GBC's source for cultural awareness and understanding

by Elнора Magboo

What's cooking with the multicultural students of George Brown College? The International Friendship Action Club, that's what. Organized by students for whom English is a second language, the club applied for accreditation and was approved by the Student Association in November of last year.

The International Friendship Action Club (IFAC) was conceived in the mind of Fariba Fard, now a graduating Community Worker student. Fariba, whose roots are from Iran, got the inspiration to put up the club after real-

izing that students like her do not have a venue where they can run to for sharing of experiences, consultation and advocacy amongst themselves.

"It struck me that with so many of us coming from different ethnic backgrounds, we don't have a space in the college where we could regularly gather for mutual support," said Fariba.

The more she thought and talked about it among her peers, the more she was convinced that putting up some sort of club was an idea whose time has come. Thus, its birth with an initial membership of 30 students.

Fariba's infectious enthusiasm and zeal have been rewarded with no less than 130 members to date, across all GBC campuses, and it's still growing. IFAC advocates inclusivity so much that it is open even to all Canadians born and/or raised here.

The club celebrated International Women's Day March 8 with speakers representing diverse interests giving talks and members exchanging thoughts, poems, singing and dancing, over a multicultural lunch. Bob Luker is the club's Faculty Advisor. Interested? Call Fariba at 415-2900 ext. 89926.

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CUSTOM ESSAYS & EDITING SERVICE

Ottawa takes over student loans, banks pull out

by Alejandro Bustos

Source: National Bureau Chief TORONTO CUP) — The federal government is taking over the Canada Student Loans system from some of the country's major banks, a Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) official announced last week.

But in the wake of the announcement, made during a press conference in Hull, Que., a crucial question remains unanswered: will Ottawa spend more money running the program than the banks?

Thomas Townsend, director-general for learning and literacy at HRDC, said in Hull that the Royal Bank, Bank of Nova Scotia and CIBC were no longer interested in administering the national student loan system.

Conflicting media reports last week said the loan system costs anywhere from \$1-billion to \$1.8-billion a year to administer.

When asked how much the loan system really costs per year, a federal government official said he wasn't sure.

"We can't calculate the cost last year because we were not administering the system," said Gino Trifiro, a spokesperson for HRDC. "What we can say is that starting August 1 we will have to raise the capital to run the program, and that is \$1.8-billion."

But this does not mean the banks dished out \$1.8-billion to administer the loan system.

In fact, according to Michael Conlon, national chairperson for the Canadian Federation of Students, HRDC officials told him several times this school year that the student loan system cost \$1-billion a year to administer.

There were also conflicting press reports about how much more money the banks wanted

in risk premiums from Ottawa to continue running the program.

Since 1995, the banks have assumed the risks of student loans, while the federal government has provided between \$50-million to \$75-million a year to offset risks.

Some reports said the banks wanted \$75-million more, while other stories pegged the number at \$100-million.

When asked how much more money the banks wanted from the federal government, Trifiro replied, "I cannot provide that data."

When asked why the banks decided to pull out of the student loan system, Trifiro said he could not respond because he was a spokesperson for the government, not the banks.

And when asked why the government decided not to give the banks what they wanted, the spokesperson said, "There was not enough tenders to guarantee a viable national system of delivery."

He repeated this answer several times when asked for clarification.

The spokesperson did say, however, than an undisclosed number of financial institutions made bids to administer the loan system.

Trifiro said the government didn't like any of the tenders, but he wouldn't reveal what the tenders contained.

Nevertheless, student reaction to the HRDC announcement was positive.

Kieran Green, communications co-ordinator for the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, says students will now have more input into how the student loan system works.

"No student could access the negotiations between Ottawa

and the banks," he said. "Now we can be involved in the negotiations."

Green added that students should not see the announcement as a sign the student loan system is in trouble.

"Our key message to students is don't panic, this is not the end of the Canada Student Loans system," he said. "Come August 1, there will be money for student loans."

The Canadian Federation of Students was also pleased with the news.

"Our general reaction is to applaud the federal government for standing up to the banks and not bending to their demands," said Conlon. "The banks walked away from the deal because they wouldn't make a profit."

The Canadian Press reported last week that the banks wanted an extra \$100-million from the federal government to continue administering the loan system.

Conlon, meanwhile, said he would be willing to sit down with federal and provincial officials to come up with a better loan model.

Some 450,000 students each year rely on the loan program, which has been operating since 1964.

In related news, HRDC recently announced it is taking immediate action to correct errors resulting from the conversion of data in the Canada Student Loans Information System.

The government agency announced in a press release dated March 5 that the Customs and Revenue Agency will not withhold the income tax refund of people who were incorrectly identified as having an outstanding Canada Student Loan debt.

(With files from the Canadian Press)

Ontario gives \$2.4 billion to post-secondary schools

by Matthew Kayahara

Source: The Fulcrum (University of Ottawa)

OTTAWA (CUP) — Universities and colleges across Ontario will receive \$2.4-billion in operating funding from the province next year, the provincial government announced Tuesday.

The new funding is an increase of \$68-million from last year. But reaction from some student leaders was less than positive.

"What this announcement guarantees is that more tuition will be put in place," said Joel Hardin, Ontario chair of the Canadian Federation of Students. "It contemplates a dangerous direction towards greater privatization and greater private sector involvement in the funding of universities and colleges."

In her announcement, Dianne

Cunningham, minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, said post-secondary institutions in Ontario can only raise tuition for most programs by a maximum of two per cent a year over five years.

The cap translates into an increase next year of roughly \$34 for college tuition and \$77 for university undergraduate arts tuition, said Cunningham. It does not, however, take into account professional programs like law, medicine and dentistry that are susceptible to complete deregulation.

To maintain access, however, institutions are obliged to set aside 30 per cent of any increase in tuition for student assistance. The remaining 70 per cent must be spent on improving of programs.

Marie Bountrogianni, the provincial Liberal education critic, said the government announcement is opening the door to private institutions in the province.

"The [college and university] presidents said the needed two per cent more," she said. "My suspicion is that perhaps [the government] think private universities will fill the gap."

In a controversial move, the government said part of its operating funding will now be based on performance.

Universities are getting almost \$1.7 billion, with \$16.5 million tied to performance based on graduation rates and graduate employment rates after six months and two years.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9
see FUNDING INCREASE

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Olympic bid will forget poor: critics

by Nicola Luksic

Source: The Varsity (U of T) TORONTO (CUP) – The federal government recently gave the Toronto Olympic bid committee the financial thumbs-up at a ceremony at the (U of T) athletic centre.

Heritage minister Sheila Copps signed over Ottawa's backing, adding that it will be willing to provide an estimated \$50 million-in-service support.

"It's really appropriate that the press conference was held in a locale that exemplifies what the Olympic spirit is about," said Bruce Kidd, U of T's dean of the faculty of physical education and health.

Kidd is also chair of the Legacy and Community Enhancement Committee for the Olympic bid team.

But there's much more to Toronto's Olympic bid than spirit, says U of T professor and community activist David Hulchanski, who worries the Olympic will be a distraction from more pressing city concerns.

"Is [the Olympics] really a priority?" asked Hulchanski, who is a professor of housing and community development. "I'm worried that this will consume everyone's attention, time and money.

Even having to talk about it and think about it is a waste."

Hulchanski is particularly concerned in hosting the massive event, at an estimated cost of

to Toronto City Council.

The report recommends that the Council come up with a residence bill of rights and a rent control system that would damp-

[Australia, for this year's summer Olympics], but look where they are now."

Recent statistics point out that rent in Sydney has recently

\$150-million broadcast centre.

"Once you're into it, there's no going back," said Hulchanski. "I'm not against the Olympics, but this is not the time to go for it."

Toronto City Council recently approved a plan to bid for the Olympics. The decision puts the city up against nearly a dozen competitors, including Paris and Beijing.

The race itself will likely cost up to \$25-million, according to Kidd.

A decision by the International Olympic Committee is expected by July 2001.

Students and the U of T community, says Kidd, will benefit from improved sporting facilities.

Other blips have popped into Sydney's Olympic plans. The actual cost of hosting

Kidd recognizes there will be plenty of campus interest if the bid goes through.

"One of the things we need to do is have a campus-wide conference," he said, adding that he and the bid committee welcome all input.



Illustration by Mariana Matova

\$2.69-billion, the needs of lower-income city dwellers will be ignored.

"We want to ensure that those fears aren't realized," replied Kidd, noting that a social impact assessment was recently handed

en the population strain that the city would likely face if it wins the bid race.

Hulchanski is not convinced. "How do they know there will be no evictions?" he said. "Great promises were made in Sydney

the Olympics turned out to be \$1.8-billion greater than what was proposed in the original budget.

Some of the more weighty costs for Toronto's bid include a \$623-million Olympic village and a

U of Ottawa prof. resigns over biological warfare exam question

by Kate Heartfield

OTTAWA (CUP) – A University of Ottawa professor has resigned after asking an exam question in December about biological warfare and Quebec separatists.

"It is the year 2000 and you are employed by the government," the question, by biology professor Robert Charlebois, read in French. "Using your knowledge of microbiology and transmission of infections, find a bacterium to eliminate Quebecois separatists, not federalists."

A University official said Charlebois was not formally asked to resign, although the faculty of science did look into the issue after some students complained about the question.

Many felt it was too politically charged and even offensive to Quebecois students. Following the incident, Charlebois wrote a statement explaining his actions to Christian Detellier, the dean of science.

He also sent each student a letter of apology and apologized publicly in the French daily Le Droit.

The University issued a statement calling the question "deplorable" and "clearly inappropriate" and that it referred to "bioterrorism."

But Helene Carty, the University's marketing and communications director, said Charlebois resigned on his own. "It was certainly his own initiative," she said. "He was in no way pressured or encouraged to

do so." She added that the University will miss the professor, despite the consequences of the infamous question.

"It was a regrettable question," she said. "It was made in error. But he was certainly a good professor and a good researcher." Charlebois would not go into detail about his resignation.

"The reason I'm resigning is that I don't want to be in the public eye, and by talking to journalists that just makes it worse," he said.

But Carty said Charlebois had another reason for resigning.

According to a statement Charlebois made to the University, he has his own research he wants to pursue part-time.

"He decided that he would pursue a dream that he's always had," said Carty, adding the scandal had merely accelerated his decision to quit teaching.

While the exam question certainly ruffled some feathers among both students and university staff, the incident seems to have died down without much more controversy.

A few science students asked informally about the incident said they knew nothing about it.

And one fourth-year science student said he only knew about the incident through his friends, but thought the decision to resign was unfortunate.

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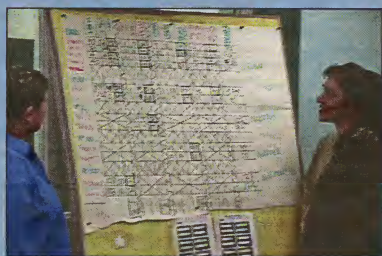
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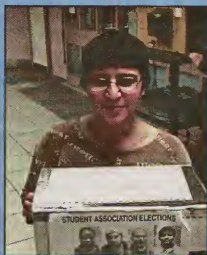
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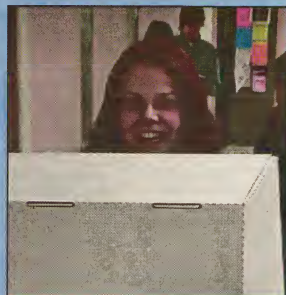
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Margaret and Fariba take a look at the unofficial election results after all the ballots had been counted.



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Daniela from the St. James Get Back Jack's takes some time to fill out her ballot.



Chief Returning Officer Jessie Chabot supervises the scene at the St. James polling station while a student submits his ballot.

Funding increase on the way for Ontario schools

ONTARIO GIVES \$2.4 BILLION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Colleges, meanwhile, will receive roughly \$722 million, with \$14 million tied to performance based on graduate employment rates six months after graduation and both graduate and employer satisfaction with the education received.

"By linking funding to performance, we

are fulfilling our commitment to reward schools that do the best job of preparing students to succeed after graduation," Cunningham said in a statement. "We also want to ensure that colleges and universities are accountable to students and taxpayers."

(With files from the Canadian Press)

Newfoundland film uncovers neglected history

by So and So

Source: The Muse (Memorial University of Newfoundland)

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) — The recent film by Marion Francis White, the prolific Newfoundland writer, tells a story that is too often neglected.

The Untold Story, which deals with the women's suffrage movement in Newfoundland, describes the struggles of the province's women in the late 19th and early 20th century to gain the right to vote.

But unlike the many other hardships and struggles Newfoundlanders have faced over the centuries, this story is one that too many people are unfamiliar with.

"Why did we not know about it?" asked White of this long-ignored battle. "Mainly because it wasn't to our advantage to know about it. It was to the government's advantage for us not to know about it."

So White, who says women's history has been notoriously buried, set out to uncover this important piece of overlooked history.

"The germination of the idea actually came from this university [Memorial University of Newfoundland], when I was doing research here 10 years ago with some other women," she said.

"I was researching some names that I had come across in Newfoundland history that I didn't know anything about, and then I suddenly realized that they were not

working individually for child poverty, or animal protection, or the war effort, or girls in factories, but they were actually working together. And when I realized this I suddenly realized it was a big picture that had been missing, and I had pieces of a puzzle."

As a writer, her first instinct was to piece the puzzle together in a book.

However, disappointed by the scarcity of photos of these women and their movement, and wanting to bring their voices to life beyond the confines of mere pages, she decided to undertake the even more ambitious project of producing a film.

"When I decided that I wanted to do a film at first it was a dream," she recalled. "I remember one librarian saying 'My dear, these women have been researched to death.' And I said, 'well that's my point. I want to bring them back to life.'"

And bringing them to life she did. The years of dreams and research culminated in an intense year of film production that resulted in her film.

An impeccably researched, and at times riveting docudrama, The Untold Story combines live action with archival film and photos in a compelling recreation of the lives and struggles of these women.

"It's a challenge on every level," she said, recalling how she was forced to give up her many other projects for the sake of completing the film.

"It was especially a challenge to make the film a celebration of an era and to have it be very credible. I did not want anyone coming back to me and saying this can't be true." That's why the research had to be so accurate.

White was strongly supported in the endeavour by a talented and determined crew.

With Greg Malone as director and David deVolpi as director of photography, she enlisted an impressive cast that included the likes of Janet Spence, Andy Jones, Pete Soucy, Ruth Lawrence and a host of others.

White is also quick to emphasize the important contribution of the many women and researchers including the likes of Linda Kealey and Margaret Dooley, as well as the students who began the task of uncovering this history, long before she undertook to bring their work to the screen.

"It was students here at [Memorial], it was their initial research, like Nancy Forrestil and Jessie Chisolm. They deserve incredible credit because they were early researchers who decided to look at say a particular five or 10 years in Newfoundland," she said.

Since its release last year, The Untold Story has received acclaim across the country.

It was featured at the St. John's Interna-

tional Women's Film and Video Festival in the fall of 1999, as well as the Atlantic Film Festival.

It's been sold to three television stations, including local broadcaster NTV and the CBC, and an international deal has recently been signed to promote it worldwide.

But perhaps even more exciting is the local interest it has awakened.

The film has just been sold to the provincial Department of Education, and by the fall should be in schools across the province.

"I feel like I have fulfilled a real dream," White said. "It really was a big dream to give women a place in our history."

With her dream brought to fruition, she has a host of new projects ahead of her, including plans for several more books of fiction and poetry, and possibly another film.

But The Untold Story will undoubtedly remain a dear part of her.

White pointed out that every time she walks the streets of downtown St. John's, she is struck by a sense of awe in following the same roads the suffragists marched along 100 years before.

"It really was giving this piece of history a rightful place, and now no one can say that it didn't exist," she said. "And you know, that is our history, and it is really humbling for me to have been a part of giving them a place in history."

Ontario government clearing the way for private universities

by Jason Maclean

Source: The Varsity (U of T)
TORONTO (CUP)—The Harris government is doing its best to establish private universities in Ontario. It is weighing a proposal from an American university to establish a campus in the province, said provincial New Democratic Party Leader Howard Hampton last week.

"This is a direct assault on Ontario's public universities and colleges by a big box American education conglomerate," said Hampton. "We don't need or want a post-secondary Wal-Mart education for our children."

The University of Phoenix is

the American school in question. It is a private, for-profit institution that has 67,000 students enrolled on campuses across 15 states and another 10,000 online.

According to Hampton, the school employs three full-time lobbyists whose job is to woo Ontario Premier Mike Harris.

And Harris is listening.

"We are considering the option to allow private universities to operate in Ontario," admitted Kerry Delany, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

The minister [of education] has met with contacts from the University of Phoenix and several

other private universities from the United States."

Hampton calls the University of Phoenix a "dubious" American product, noting that the U.S. Department of Education ordered the school to pay \$650,000 in fines after an audit exposed "system-wide problems" in student aid programs. For example, it refused to return public funds even after students had dropped out.

The University of Phoenix applied to operate in New Jersey but withdrew its proposal in November 1999, in the face of stiff opposition.

Opponents charged that the

school failed to meet the state's required levels of library resources and qualified, full-time faculty.

Hampton's real worry, however, is that once established here, the University of Phoenix, or any other private university for that matter, will aggressively seek public funds.

"Once they get their foot in the door, the for-profit institutions become high-powered lobbyists seeking more money from tax payers," he said.

The provincial government dismisses this concern.

"If private universities are allowed to operate in Ontario,

they would be fully funded by private money with no support by Ontario tax payers," Delany said. "That's what private means."

But the Conservatives' promise not to provide public funds to privatize educational institutions is "misleading," says Jim Turk, executive director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers.

"There are several ways in which private education would end up being underwritten publicly," said Turk.

Students enrolled in private universities would, for example, be eligible for interest-free government student loans.

Private universities, especially in their formative phase, would likely borrow resources from public institutions, including library and laboratory materials and even faculty members, especially those presently employed as contract sessionals with little job security.

Donations to private universities, meanwhile, would be tax-deductible.

And zoning changes to accommodate private universities and related real estate developments would produce a huge, non-taxable boom to these institutions.

"All of which amounts to a sizeable and largely unaccountable subsidy," said Turk.

But notwithstanding Hampton's reservations about the University of Phoenix, the real concern may reside closer to home.

According to Turk, a more likely scenario is the local establishment of a private, not-for-profit university here in Ontario.

A coalition, which includes local MP Betty Stevenson and former University of British Columbia president David Strangway, is attempting to create a private but not-for-profit university in Queensville, 10 kilometres northeast of Newmarket, to be called "Wolfe University."

"This proposal is more likely to succeed because it is more politically palatable than the prospect of a for-profit university, but it would be no less of a drain on public resources and therefore no less a threat to public higher education," warned Turk.

"As soon as the first private university opens in Ontario, NAFTA and [World Trade Organization] trade laws will make it impossible to turn away private universities from the United States and other countries," he added. "Once the door is opened, there will be no shutting it."

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U of Alberta embroiled in free press debate

by Alejandro Bustos

Source: CUP National Bureau Chief
EDMONTON – What began as an editorial endorsing student union candidates, has deteriorated into a furious debate over freedom of the press at the University of Alberta (U of A).

This past Tuesday, the March 7 issue of the Gateway, the student newspaper at the University, was impounded after a student election official ruled an editorial in the paper was biased.

But what really has student reporters on campus furious is this controversial interpretation: the Gateway is not a real newspaper, so it does not have the right to endorse anyone. Period.

"If we don't allow the campus Muslim Association, the chess club or the Star Trek club on campus to endorse candidates, then why should we allow the Gateway?" Stacy Prochnau, chief electoral officer at the U of A, told Canadian University Press (CUP).

Prochnau pointed out the paper is not autonomous – the U of A Student Union is the official publisher – and as such is not a

legal entity.

She compared the Gateway to any other service on campus run by the student government, including the bar and photocopy room, and said the paper is, "effectively a newsletter of the student union."

This description of the paper was categorically denied by Gateway staff.

"That's stupid," said an angry Neal Ozana, the paper's editor-in-chief. "We are a newspaper. We are not the pamphlet for the Muslim Association or a newsletter for the chess club."

The controversy stems from an editorial in the March 7 issue of the Gateway by Dan Lazin, the paper's production manager and Alberta Bureau Chief for CUP.

When it came to endorsing a candidate for the position of vice-president (external), the paper opted for Barrie Tanner – who happens to be the paper's sports editor.

"Perhaps we're biased," wrote Lazin about the choice, "but he has stronger ideas than Naomi Agard (who, for the record, wrote news for us last year)."

The editorial went on to say that Agard

didn't have as firm a grasp on the issues as Tanner, and that she hadn't brought about any changes during her stint on council.

When Agard read the comment early Tuesday morning – some students get a head start on reading the paper by taking copies directly from the school's loading dock – she immediately contacted Prochnau.

Agard could not be reached for comment by press time.

After receiving the complaint, Prochnau ordered that copies of the paper be locked away until the University's Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement Board had a chance to make a ruling.

After the Gateway appealed to the board, the issue was returned to its stands Tuesday evening.

But the experience left reporters on campus worried about their freedom of speech.

"It would have set a horrible precedent if an uninformed board could have made a decision to censor the paper," said Ozana.

In response, Prochnau said she was only trying to be fair and avoid the publication of libelous material.

Election officials were worried the editorial slandered Agard, and that the paper had too much influence on elections results.

Mike Chalk, student union president, said the paper was not censored.

"I have been in the student union for two years, and I have never interfered with content [in the Gateway]" he said. "I despise people who want to interfere with content."

But Chalk then said the real issue is not about freedom of the press, but whether the paper had broken its own internal bylaws by publishing libelous content.

He also said he wasn't sure how much influence the paper had on student elections.

"I won last year by 1,300 votes," said Chalk, who received the paper's endorsement during his campaign. "I don't think the Gateway is worth 1,300 votes."

The student president, however, said the paper could influence elections in close races.

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Summer Session

Is hip hop art, culture or sexual lifestyle?

One student journalist sounds off

by Asha Tomlinson

Source: The Lance (U. of Windsor)

WINDSOR (CUP) – Many young people are in confusion to the true meaning of hip hop. When viewing most hip hop videos, negative images of women scantily clothed and sometimes even bare breasted are shown shaking their "hangs" in front of the camera. Usually male artists and other men in the video watch and touch these women.

Q-Tip, an artist who has been known to write lyrics with a deeper meaning, has recently released two videos filled with women who leave little to the imagination. The women are present in the video only to show off their bodies wearing nine-inch heels, barely-there shorts and skimpy tops.

According to an insider involved in one of Q-Tip's video shoots, three of the women were actual dancers, one was a stripper and the rest were models.

Although we are sexual beings by nature, the fantasy-like images created in these videos produce a beauty type many young women feel they must emulate.

But videos are only the tip of the iceberg – hip hop lyrics are not much better.

Artists such as Juvenile have created songs about women "backing their ass up." In their video, there are various women showing their "asses" to the rest of the world. Some look as young as 16-years-old.

Women being called bitches and hos are common terms in songs by Jay-Z, Eminem and Snoop Doggy Dog. Even Canadian hip hop personalities have been resorting to misogynist lyrics about women.

Choclair, an artist who is rising to the top quickly, has lyrics like "I like my girls face down. Ass up. Pillows on their mouth so they can muffle out the sound."

In a recent article published in *excalibur*, York University's main student newspaper, Choclair said his lyrics are part of a stage persona and not an indication of his real identity and beliefs. He compares it to acting.

"When you go and see an Al Pacino movie, you might see him shoot people, but you never ask whether he does that himself," he said. "He's an actor."

Unfortunately, these explicit lyrics are being taken at face value by many, which is creating a culture of gender hierarchy and a degradation of women and their bodies.

Tanya Andrews, a third-year University

of Windsor student, says sexual lyrics have been a continuous trend in black music.

"Blues was the first type of black music that black women were able to record and the most prominent theme to sing about was sexuality," she said. "It has been passed down from generation to generation, but now it has become more blatant and explicit."

This "blatant and explicit" sexuality appears in hip-hop stage shows in which artists such as Redman and the Alkaholics have been known to "encourage bitches to take off their tops and expose themselves."

This quote is from an Internet article written by a young, black man named "Davey D".

"Women were being grabbed and consistently accosted. I happen to run into two women who stopped to chat with me and for the next 15 minutes everyone who walked by made it a point to grab their asses or poke some other body part."

Davey D documented his experience on his website, www.daveyd.com, after attending a Redman concert. He says disrespecting women is becoming a disturbing trend.

In Davey D's article, he indicated that the hip hop culture is permitting this kind of behaviour, and young men are getting more aggressive with young women.

"During a recent Uncle Luke show in San Jose, fools decided to tear the clothing off a female concert goer. This is unfortunately an increasing phenomenon. If females 'get out of hand' and 'don't respond accordingly,' there is a good possibility she may find her clothing being torn off her body."

There are many reasons other than hip hop videos and lyrics that contribute to such behaviour, but these are two of the largest influences on the hip hop culture.

Critics say that what hip hop needs is an alternative image that promotes black sexuality in a tasteful way and eliminates gender hierarchy. A positive change that starts with the viewers and listeners of hip hop music. They need to be aware and take an active role in what they deem acceptable.

"All of us are responsible for helping create that demand because we support the supply," wrote Davey D. "Those of us reading this article may not be doing the actual slapping of women, but we are directly and indirectly supporting an environment, myself included, that allows this to continue."

I've been out looking for the stuff nobody has found yet, at least nobody affiliated with any of the major labels.

Right now my favourite band in town is a Brit pop-y fun bunch of guys called Northstar Jack. They have a James kind of thing going on, complete with a singer who can actually sing live. They're fun in that Barenaked Ladies way but that's where the similarity ends. Good songs and great playing ability define these lads – I'm still trying to get my mitts on their CD and I'm told it won't be much longer. After the two shows I saw at Clinton's I was intro-

duced to the band – Gareth, Adam, Rob, Jay and Tim. I found out they're playing another show at the end of April, so keep your eyes open. Look for their website soon (www.northstarjack.com).

The next band I'm looking forward to seeing again is UltraLoFreq. I caught their gig at Clinton's the same night as Northstar Jack. UltraLoFreq have a harder edge to them but they're still more than easy to listen to. One thing that really struck me about them was their ability to really feed off the audience. Ron, GBC student Daniel, Kelly and Darryl really know how to com-

municate musically with their fans, of which they already have a loyal following.

I also want to mention Cor-duroy Leda, a band I went to see after receiving an invite from an old friend who is in the group. The show I saw at the Free Times was a benefit and showcased the talents of only a few of the group's members, but these chicks can really rock.

I'm still looking to expand my musical horizons with some more excellent Canadian talent. If anyone out there is in the know on where I can feed my new habit, let me know.

NEW RELEASE REVIEWS

by Ilich Mejia

The Unband "Retarder" (TVT Records)

"Geez Louise," this is straight up untamed Rock & Roll at it's finest, without a doubt. The Unband delivers an in-your-face style of hard rock that will leave you numb and waiting for your next dosage. As far as lyrics go, just play it and hear it go.

Magnified "Stand in Traffic" (TVT Records)

This tightly blended alternative/pop band hailing from San Francisco will be one to look for. A true musical experience in all aspects is what would best describe this release. Dark at times, the music is elevated by vocals reminiscent of the great Perry Farrel (Jane's Addiction). Nothing new and fancy here except for the music itself.

Club cuts to shake your booty to

by Cathy Brunka

With the nice warm weather on the way one can only start thinking about summer. One event that goes hand in hand with summer is going out, especially on those warm summer nights. So to get you in the ready for the big season here are two club reviews.

The first one is by Basement Jaxx, a dual group who have been mixing and making songs for the club scene for a while. On their self-titled CD are 15 songs, including the two hits "rendez-vous" and "red alert". Some of the songs are full of great beats and will make want to dance, while other songs sound a bit strange at times and leave you wondering what the group was thinking when they recorded them.

Over all I give the CD three out of five for funky beats and interesting songs.

The second club CD features a well-known song and a well-known artist. The artist is Alice Deejay and the song is "Better off alone". We've all heard this one at the clubs and admit it we all sing the refrain when we dance. The CD has 6 songs and two of them are mixes of the "better off alone" song. The rest of the songs are fun to listen to and make you just want to have some fun. I give this CD four out five for its fun-loving spirit.

Both of these CDs are available at any music store at the regular CD price. Also check out the other club CDs so that you can practice your moves before you get on the dance floor.

Canada's music scene more than just Alanis, Shania and Celine – thank God

Our editor makes a point of checking out what Toronto has to offer

by Kari Macknight

Since my musical tastes run the gamut from traditional jazz to ska to Celtic and Brit pop, I've never really looked mad at what Canadian artists are up to. I've always considered New Orleans or Manchester as musical meccas.

As one of the rare editor types who can admit that sometimes other people know more than I do, I have been expanding my musical horizons. My CD rack now contains the likes of Diana Krall, Great Big Sea, Natalie MacMaster, Chantal Kreviazuk, Matthew Good Band and reads like a Juno performers list. I

haven't added the Moffatts yet, if only because they're annoying. My feeling was cemented during the Juno telecast last Sunday. Can you say "Cute but stupid?"

Because I'm the last person to have discovered our homegrown talent, I'm now on a mission to seek it out wherever it is hiding. A number of my friends work in radio and readily admit that strict CRTC regulations for Canadian content are becoming increasingly easier to meet. Pretty soon we may not even need such Draconian measures to ensure our artists get exposure – the world's ears will already be open.

A black and white photograph of a person's bare shoulder. A hand is applying a tattoo of a horse in profile. The tattoo is black and white, showing the horse's legs and tail. The person's skin is light-colored. The background is dark and out of focus.

This student is buying a car.



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Sports

by Rod Brown

Victor has his eyes set on the CCAA Championships

Cambrian College played host to this year's OCAA Badminton Championship. From George Brown there were three teams that qualified for this year's championship. However, due to prior commitments, only one of the teams could attend. The Mixed Doubles (Ngy Lan and Yin Yiu Lam) and the Ladies Doubles (Isabelle Zhang and Hung Chiu Lee) were the two teams that qualified but were unable to compete. The soul representative for George Brown was Victor Peng, competing in the Men's Singles.

The lone competitor, Victor, represented George Brown magnificently in this tournament. Defeating all of his opponents, Victor earned a spot in the Championship match. With all of his winning, it makes you wonder whether his full name is 'Victorious' Peng! In the championship match, Victor defeated his opponent Dan Palermo from Georgian College, in straight sets; 15-2 and 15-0.

With this win Victor captured the OCAA Men's Singles Gold Medal and was named MVP of the entire tournament. On Thursday March 9, Victor and coach Kim Ng will be travelling to British Columbia to compete in the CCAA Championships.

Victor has also been nominated as the CCAA Player of the Year. Congratulations Victor, from the Athletic Department, on your gold medal and the chance to represent Ontario and George Brown at the CCAA Championships at Douglas College in BC from the 9th to 11th of March. GOOD LUCK!

The Women's Indoor Soccer Team earns a spot at the OCAA Championships

The Central Regional Championships were held at Centennial College on the 3rd and 4th of March. The top 2 teams from this tournament have earned the right to compete in the OCAA

Championships.

With this in mind the Huskies' aim was to be one of those 2 teams. In their first game the girls faced the Seneca Sting. This game turned out to be a defensive battle. Neither team could generate any offense and after time had expired the score remained tied with a goose egg apiece (0-0). The Huskies second game demonstrated that the women planned on working on their offense. Two goals from Marin Leighton and a goal from Alexis Vieira boosted the Huskies to victory, as they defeated the Sting, 3-1.

Their next game against the talented Centennial Colts was a much tougher battle. The team from Centennial is a very competitive team as the girls found out. Unfortunately, Centennial was just too much for the Huskies on this occasion, losing 2-1. Elaine Tizon scored the lone goal goal for the Huskies in this hard fought game. Going into their final game with a record of 1-1-1, the Huskies crucially needed a win. Centennial also wanted this game and were not going to give up easily. This game was also a very tight and highly competitive. In the end the final score was 2-1, with the Huskies finishing on top. The two Huskie goals came from Anna Aguiar and Ann-Marie Scarlett.

After playing all of their games, the Huskies finished the tournament with a record of 2-1-1. This record proved to be good enough to move the team into second place overall in the tournament, thus earning them the chance to compete in the OCAA Championships. The games will be held at Conestoga on the 17th and 18th of March. With their work ethic and offensive potential, the women have a very good chance at doing well in this tournament. Keep up the hard work and good luck in bringing home the championship.

Men's Indoor Soccer Team's season wraps up

Like the women, the men also competed in the Central Regional Championships at Centennial on the 3rd and 4th of March. The first team that the men faced was the home team, the Centennial Colts. The Huskies had many chances early on but failed to capitalize. This failure to capitalize cost the Huskies in the end, as Centennial proceeded to score five unanswered goals. The men looked to pick up the intensity and execution in the second game against Canadore. They accomplished what they set out to do, generating lots of offense. The dogs cruised to a 4-2 victory over the lowly Panthers.

In their next game the guys would face the highly skilled team from Conestoga in a very important game. The key for the men would be to carry the offense they showed light of against Canadore, into the game against Conestoga. The Huskies played excellent, capitalizing on their opportunities and keeping Conestoga off the score sheet. The final score was 2-0 in favor of the dominant Huskies.

Once again, in the third game, the men met up again with their nemesis: consistency. They did not play up to level of play that they demonstrated in the two games previous. Consequently, Seneca capitalized on their chances, winning the game 4-2. In their 5th and final game, the Huskies played Confederation from Thunder Bay. Like Dr. Jeckyll and Mr. Hyde, the Huskies made the switch, playing well once again, cruising to a 4-1 victory over the Thunderhawks.

Finishing the tournament with a record of 3 - 2, the Huskies fell short of clinching either of the top 2 positions, therefore not making the OCAA Championships. The coaching staff reported that the entire team played well overall throughout the tournament, with an exceptional individual effort from Rutaro Sugi.

After such a good year, with so many excellent games it hard to

believe that the Men's Indoor Soccer Team's season is finished. The men experienced a lot of success throughout the season and learned about the value of consistency. On behalf of George Brown, we would like to congratulate the on season and we would like to wish the team all the best!

Men's Basketball lose a heartbreaker to Cambrian

On Monday, February 28, the men's season was on the line as the Huskies faced the Cambrian Shields in a sudden death quarter final match. Coming into the game the team was ranked 13th in the country after their victory over Algonquin, who are ranked 2nd in the country. The favoured Huskies fell behind early, never seeming to find their groove. The men battled hard coming within 7 points many times during the game, only to have this short lived comeback answered with a 3 pointer from the sharp shooting Shields. Nothing seemed to be going right for the Huskies this game. Unfortunately, 3 of the 5 George Brown starters fouled out, with the other 2 having 4 fouls a piece. Tough luck and some bad breaks plagued the Huskies throughout the game. With the end of the game, came the end of the men's season, as the Huskies were defeated.

After anticipating the upcoming OCAA Championships on the 3rd and 4th of March, this has been very tough for the men to come to grips with. This season was very successful, with the team earning the respect of all the other teams in the league. The entire team will have the summer to come to grips with this loss and to gear up for next season. Rest assured that when the Huskies tear back onto the court next year, they will be as hungry as ever.

The Athletic Department and all of the fans would like to thank the entire Men's Basketball Team for such an exciting season. We look forward to next season and hope to see most of the player's back. We would also like to wish

all of the players not returning next year good luck in all of their future endeavors.

120% from the Women's Basketball Team

With their season on the line, the Women's Basketball Team desperately needed a win against the Niagara Knights on the 22nd of February in order to qualify for the playoffs. The Huskies came out on fire defeating the Knights convincingly in their own castle, 68-56.

The next challenge for the Huskies, was to qualify for the OCAA Championships. In order for them to do this, it was required that they play a quarter final match against the Seneca Sting, on Tuesday, February 29.

Not wanting to through in the towel just yet, the Huskies came out, tearing it up right from the tip off. With the best team effort of the year, the Huskies refused to go out easily. Every player on the team vowed they did not want to be their last game of the season. The game was close and the teams exchanged the lead throughout. But, by the end of the fourth quarter, the Huskies ran into some foul trouble. This foul trouble may have been the factor that shifted the momentum, nevertheless, the time on the clock seemed to be the women's greatest opposition in this game. And when the final buzzer finally sounded, the Huskies happened to fall short unfortunately.

This was such a great season, with the women showing improvement in every game that they played. As with the men, the women will also be a force to be reckoned with next season, as they will have the entire summer to prepare.

Everybody at George Brown would like to congratulate the Women's Basketball Team on an excellent season. We would also like to congratulate Stephanie Brembridge, number 35, for being selected to the All-Canadian Women's College Basketball Team. Keep working hard, girls! See you back next year!

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He and His special guest enlighten you with their picks for this year's Academy Awards

That's right kiddies, it's Oscar time again. And keeping with the traditions of Tinseltown, He and special guest on the couch, Torrid Love, have compiled our picks for that night's Big Winnahs. You see, She has gone missing. The last I heard, she was on her way to rediscover Broadway and hasn't been seen since. I only hope she's somewhere in a small jazz bar sipping Harvey Wallbangers with Liza and Bernadette, and not experiencing some perverse casting couch of love with the likes of Lyle Wagner. We miss you, little one! But with Torri at my side, I'm sure we'll make up for the loss of She.

But before all that, a brief review of a new release that's in theatres now...

The Next Best Thing

Starring: Madonna and Rupert Everett

He Said: For the luv'a Gawd! Stop the pain, please! I had such high hopes for this movie. I thought: a romantic comedy, Madonna can surely do this. Not! Wrong! First off, for a movie to be considered a romantic comedy, it needs to be funny. Secondly, it needs to have romance! This film had neither. It

didn't even have a small amount of personality. It was boring, disjointed and just plain bad! I don't even recommend waiting for video. I still think you'd be wasting your money. I have a difficult time saying anything about this movie without it being negative, and all I can truly be sure of is that it's 2 hours of my life I'll never get back. **Grade: F-**

He and Torri's Oscar Picks

Best Picture

He said: American Beauty hands down! Let's be honest, there is no other competition. Sam Mendes has crafted a remarkably original and superb film that will walk away with arms full on Oscar night.

Torri said: It's got to be *American Beauty*, although *The Cider House Rules* was an amazingly powerful film – and both had a fair share of intrigue and schpaking. I think the Academy will go with *American Beauty* because: a) it's awesome; b) it's fairly raunchy; c) members don't know any better than to equate slow (e.g. *The Cider House Rules*) with boring. Voting members are largely actors after all.

Best Actor

He said: Again, I am confident that my choice is the right one. Hilary Swank in my eyes stands out as the only choice in this category. The acting chops she displayed for *Boys Don't Cry* far outshines the competition.

Torri said: Annette Bening was playing 'nasty' in this film. She chipped the character of Carolyn Burnham with such power that everyone left the theatre believing that she truly deserved the hideous hairdo she was laden with. It was a dynamite performance.

Best Actor

He said: All the men in this category have excelled at their craft innumerable times, but I think that this is Denzel Washington's year. With the exception of Kevin Spacey, I don't believe there is much in the way of stopping him.

Torri said: Sean Penn did a remarkable job in Woody Allen's self-indulgent, unspectacular film, *Sweet and Lowdown* and deserves to be recognized – but I don't think he'll get an Oscar for it. The man who should get the Oscar is Kevin Spacey – he was spectacular in *American Beauty*. There's not much that can truly describe how good he is and how

much credit he deserves without becoming a blithering idiot. But it should be him. Unfortunately, I believe that the little gold guy will go to Denzel Washington for his portrayal of Hurricane Carter. Denzel is great, of course, but doesn't hold a candle to Kevin Spacey.

Best Supporting Actress

He said: The supporting categories are always more difficult to pick. But this year I think it's a pretty safe bet to put ALL your money on Angelina Jolie. Her control inspiring whirl wind character from *Girl Interrupted* more than rivals the contribution of her peers.

Torri said: Without saying a word in the entire film, Samantha Morton puts forth a stunning performance in *Sweet and Lowdown* as Hattie, Sean Penn's girlfriend. Her eyes speak far more eloquently than most professional lecturers. She shines in every scene and elicits emotion with a tilt of the head. On a side note, I would love to see Toni Collette win. I think she's highly underrated and am still pissed that she was passed over for her performance in *Muriel's Wedding*.

Best Supporting Actor

He said: Ah, the one category where the predictable could lose footing to the hopeful. Tom Cruise, being the predictable, looks to have it all sewn up with massive critical adulation and a Golden Globe win. But watch your back, Tom. There's trouble on the horizon in the form of a four-foot dark horse. Haley Joel Osment, the kid who sees dead people from the 6th Sense has every bit of a chance to steal Cruise's spotlight. And if truth be told, I can't wait to see it happen!

Torri said: I'm with He on this one. Everyone is ooohing and aaahing over Tom Cruise in *Magnolia* which, granted, was a good performance but not the best of the year. Unfortunately, I don't think the Academy will see it my way. If I had my pick it would be Michael Clarke Duncan from *The Green Mile*. Wow, could this man make me cry. And laugh. And gasp at the mystery. Maybe he can strike up a deal with Tom to borrow the vibrator-esque gold statue for a while.

Remember to watch the 72nd Annual Academy Awards – Oscar 2000 on Sunday, March 26th at 8p.m. Check your local listings for channels.

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